

THE HAMBLE RIVER.

BY H. W. TRINDER.

The Hamble, in old times also called the Hamele, flows from above Bishop's Waltham through very pretty country until after a course of some ten miles it falls into the mouth of Southampton Water, nearly opposite Calshot Castle. Facing this page is a plate showing the course of the river and the various parishes which touch on it.

The river has its origin above Bishop's Waltham in the junction of various brooks, one of which comes from Dunbridge neighbourhood, and another from the valley in which is the old hamlet of Dean. Though they are now tiny, it would appear that they were once larger; for both valleys have in late years been explored for flints, which have been found in such quantities that it is probable they were deposited by quite considerable streams.

I.—PREHISTORIC, BRITISH, AND ROMAN TIMES.

About half a mile above Dean, in Bishop's Waltham parish, is Cleverley Wood, and beyond it on the open land between Franklin's Farm and Hazleholt are the remains of a British village, while towards the east end is a field with several round barrows. Most of these were opened by my friend Colonel Hawley in 1906, and his investigations indicate that they must be assigned to the bronze age, about period II. (Montelius). Colonel Hawley further, in 1908, devoted a good deal of time to exploring the western part of the open ground, where he found remains of a British village which had lasted into Roman times. Close by this is an arable field in which the Colonel thinks there may be other village remains.

On the open ground opposite Hazleholt, and about a quarter of a mile from the road between Bishop's Waltham

and Corhampton, is a scarp of some length which probably had palisades on the top for defence, and in Cleverley Wood are the remains of earthworks, probably used in the same way. The name of King Stephen is associated with this region, but the site of King Stephen's Castle has never been ascertained, and it is sometimes spoken of as an earthwork. May it be possible that King Stephen revived and enlarged the old British fortifications? The principal objects found in the Barrow Field were as follows:—In the largest barrow (which had been opened before) a few rough worked flints, including a knife and some six scrapers. In a small barrow next to it, an earthen lamp or "incense cup" two inches high and three inches wide, a bronze pin, a flat rounded flint, bones and skull of a badger, leg of roe deer, and an amber bead.

There was also a round pit in the chalk filled with rubbish. It was excavated to a depth of seventeen feet, and its contents suggested that it was probably a marl pit, and filled up about the eleventh century. Three other small ploughed down barrows, near the second largest barrow (which is still unopened), showed signs of interment, but no bones were there. There was a shallow oblong ovoid cutting in the chalk; 2 feet by 1, by 6 inches deep, containing sooty matter. In 1908 a depression inside the earthwork of the British village on the south side was partly excavated, and found to be a marlpit or Dene hole. This had probably been filled up by using the earthwork on that side, which had disappeared for a considerable distance. This pit was continued down for about 70 feet without coming to the bottom. The debris with which it had been filled up contained pottery fragments of the Roman period and another coin of Tetricus. A few human bones also were dispersed amongst the rubbish.

In the British village were found:—(1) A beehive-shaped underground hut, which had been lined with clay on wattle, 11 feet diameter at the bottom and 8ft. 6in. deep; but it was, no doubt, domed over with wattle and clay and protected by a superstructure of timber. The entrance would be at the side, and made by means of a ladder. (2) The site of another pit dwelling and two sites of other dwellings. (3) A drain 2 feet deep cut through chalk. (4) A small Roman coin of

third or fourth century (of the Emperor Tetricus). (5) Many fragments of pottery, some Celtic, some (including Samian) of Roman times. One was pieced together by Col. Hawley, and two others sufficiently so to show their shapes. (6) One large red deer antler. (7) One antler which had been used as a pick. (8) Several boot nails and five large nails for timber. (9) Bones and teeth of horse, ox, sheep, roe deer, fox and wild pig, and a bone of a domestic fowl with a good spur. (10) Many oyster shells (probably from Hamble), and some sea mussel shells.

There were no worked flints, but two large and long flints, perhaps used to break out chalk, were disinterred.¹ All the "finds" are now, I believe, in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Vansittart Long, who have succeeded the late Mr. A. Bouverie Campbell Wyndham, to Corhampton House and estate.

Near Bishop's Waltham are many traces of the Romans. Indeed, the Rev. T. Reynolds, who in 1799 published a large volume on "That part of the Itinerary of Antoninus Pius which relates to Britain," thought Bishop's Waltham was the Roman station of Clausentum. But the writer of the Roman section in the "Victorian County History of Hants" rejects this.² There is, perhaps, a Roman site on the eastern part of the Corhampton estate, and the British village, as already mentioned, has produced some Roman relics. On Locks Farm, south of the town, Roman bricks, tiles, and pottery have been found. On Park Farm, near the Bishop's Waltham railway, Roman tiles and some coins have been found, and an urn with Roman coins was discovered about 1830. Colonel Hawley has traced the Roman road from Upham across the Hamble, where the river now passes under the Bishop's Waltham and Botley road, through the Glebe Farm and Curdridge, and he thinks that in Roman times there was a ford at this point on the road. Further, where the Roman road crosses the Hamble, the bottom of the stream here, which is very hard for several yards up and down,

¹For further particulars see account by Colonel Hawley in "Hampshire Chronicle," of 18th April, 1908.

²Vol. I, pp. 324 and 330.

seems composed of densely rammed chalky matter, in which lime may have been incorporated to harden it. Had this been a ford the bed of the stream would have become hollowed and deepened by constant traffic; so perhaps a strong timber bridge was made over the firm foundation. No masonry appears; but if this were used for supporting the bridge ends the rubble remains of it would still exist in the banks. The idea of a bridge is strengthened by the fact that the spot is subject to deep floods, and at such a time a ford would be impassable. Three Roman horse shoes were found some ten feet below the surface in digging the foundations for the Oddfellows' Hall in the High Street. The Glebe Farm has an old kiln on it. There is nothing to show its age, but the proximity to the Roman road and the nature of some tile fragments found there, point to its being possibly Roman. In a wood at Hall Court, near Shedfield, there is another Roman kiln.

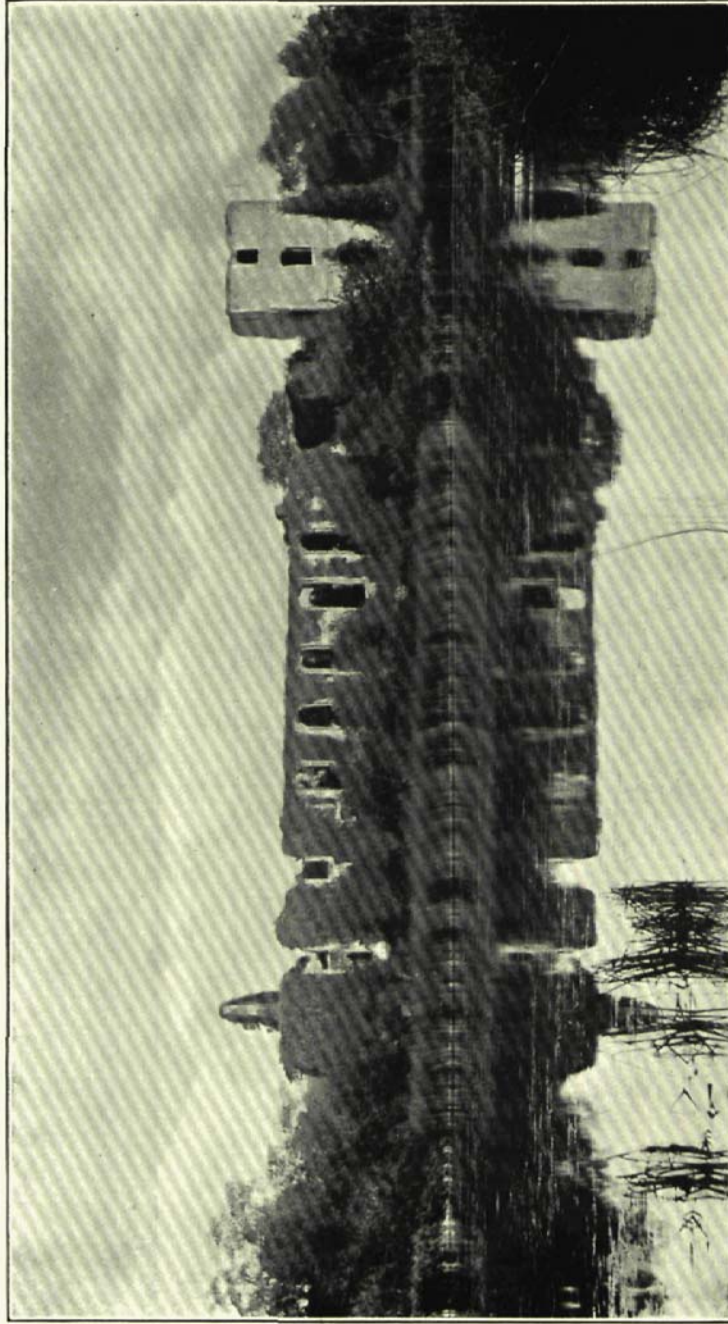
II.—MEDIÆVAL AND MODERN.

(1) *Waltham Hundred.*

The following is a translation of the part of Domesday relating to Waltham Hundred. This, and the entries relating to Botley, Hound, Netley, and Hook are the only Domesday entries affecting the Hamble:—

“The Bishop of Winchester holds Waltham in demesne, and it always belonged to the bishopric. In the time of King Edward it was, as now, assessed at 20 hides, although there be 30 hides in number. Here are 26 ploughlands, 6 in demesne and 70 villeins, and 15 borderers with 26 ploughlands, also 7 servants, 3 mills, which pay 17s. 6d., 2½ acres of meadow, woods for 10 hogs, and a pound for cattle. In the time of King Edward its value was £31, afterwards £10 10s., and now £30. Of the land of this manor, Robert holds three yard lands (held by villeins in the time of King Edward) and has 1 ploughland, 1 borderer, and 1 servant, and it is worth 30s. Ralph, a priest, holds 2 churches of this manor, with 2½ hides, and has 2 ploughlands and 2 villeins, and 9 borderers and 7 servants with one ploughland, and it is worth 100s. Of the land of these churches, one man holds one hide of the land occupied by the villeins and has one villein and 3 borderers with 9 oxen, and it is worth 30s.”

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



THE PALACE. BISHOP'S WALTHAM, AT THE PRESENT DAY.

The above relates to the manor, not the parish, of Bishop's Waltham. This manor comprised Durley, where one of the two churches probably was.

(2) *Bishop's Waltham.*

The parish has been altered during the last 20 years, and now contains about 5,147 acres, and 2,309 inhabitants (1901). Almost all the parishes this article relates to have been so altered of late years, that though I have taken a good deal of trouble I am afraid the acreage and population given are not at all reliable. Bishop's Waltham is the largest town in Hamble Valley, and shows by its name its long and intimate connection with the Bishops of Winchester. This connection commenced in 904, when Bishop Denewulf acquired the manor of Bishop's Waltham, which consisted of 38 hides (about 4,500 acres) from Edward the Elder, in exchange for 40 hides at Portchester. King Edward confirmed this grant, the land being then described as "28 cassae." Murray's "Handbook of the Southern Cathedrals," in its notice of Denewulf, mentions an ancient tradition that Denewulf was the swineherd who lodged Alfred at Athelney, and whose wife's cakes the King spoilt. More than 1,000 years have passed, and there is still a connection; for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are lords of the manor, and the Bishop is patron of the living. In 1001, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells us, "the Danes burned the town of Waltham, and many other small towns." A palace was built here by Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester, and this was added to by William of Wickham, Cardinal Beaufort, and others. In 1644 it was held for Charles I., besieged by the Parliamentarians, bombarded, taken, "sighted," and never afterwards inhabited. The park and chase were afterwards sold, and about 20 years ago the ruins of the palace and surrounding land were acquired by the late Sir William Jenner, Bart., to whose family they now belong.

The Close Rolls record that in 1316 the "Waltham Blacks," so notorious in the early part of the eighteenth century, were anticipated. John de Bello Campo, William de Harden, John Randolph, whom the king appointed justices to keep his peace, in the County of Southampton, were ordered to cause John

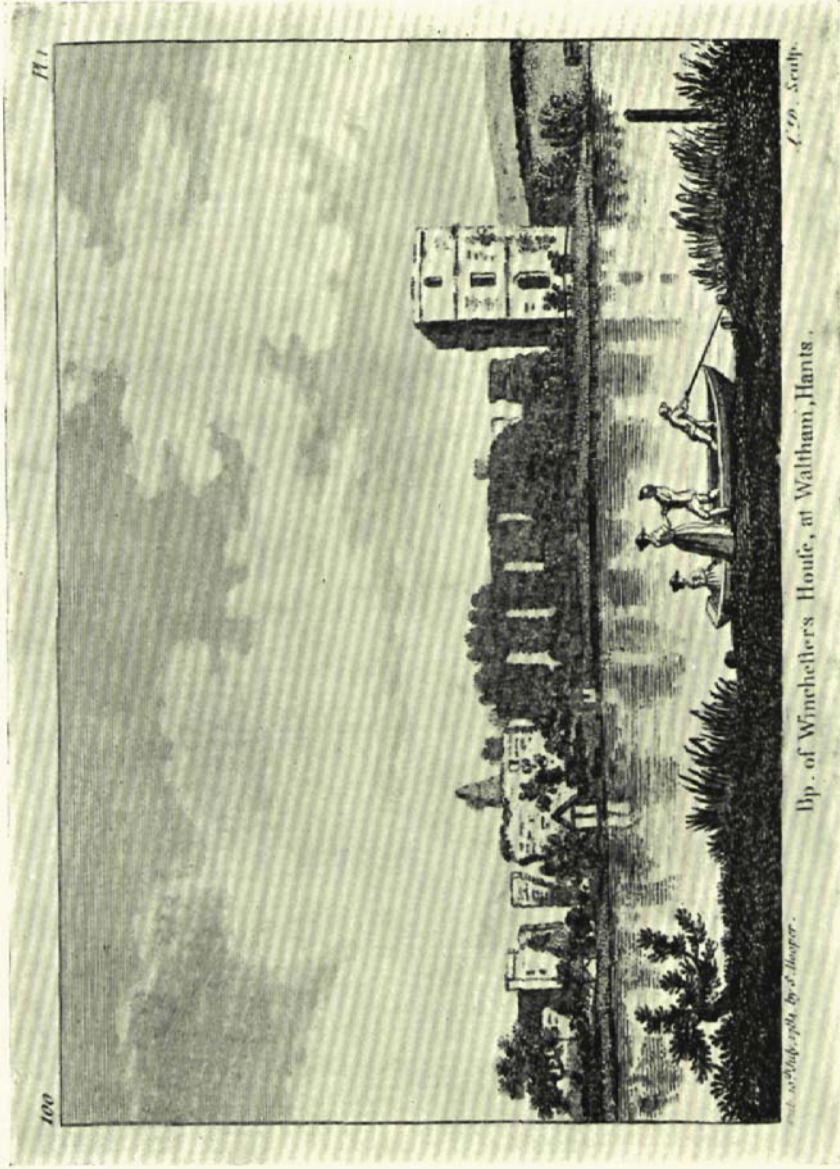
Tolemache and Ralph Tolemache to be released from Winchester prison, "where they were indicted for breaking the park at Waltham, during the voidance, after the death of Henry, late bishop, on their giving security to appear before the king or his justices and answer."¹

In mediæval days, the bishops being the great landowners, there are but few traces of the landed families near Bishop's Waltham. But Professor Montagu Burrows, in his "Family of Brocas," records (p. 321) that in the thirteenth century Sir Hugh Brocas married the heiress of Sir Roger de Hoo. The manor of Hoo, then was a wild track of land east of Waltham which in 1384 Sir Bernard Brocas gave Southwick Priory as an endowment of a Brocas chantry.

The history of Bishop's Waltham, down to the destruction of the palace, is that of the great bishops who lived there, and of the distinguished visitors whom they there entertained. Among the most eminent of the bishops who dwelt in the palace were:—(1) William Edington (1346-66), who was also Treasurer and Chancellor of England. Of him Leland,² says, "Hedington, the Bishop, was cheefe rular of England while King Edward the 3^d and Edward the Black Prince did war on France." (2) William of Wykeham (1367—1404) also Chancellor of England, founder of Winchester College and of New College, Oxford. (3) Cardinal Henry Beaufort (1404—1447), four times Chancellor of England. (4) William of Waynflete (1447—86), for nine years Chancellor of England, founder of Magdalen College, Oxford. Distinguished visitors to the palace were frequent. Among them were:—King Stephen, whose younger brother, Henry of Blois, was Bishop of Winchester; Henry II., whose will was made here (1182), and who, on 2nd Sunday in Lent, 1182, here received 13 Brothers of St. Edmunsbury, appointed to elect a new abbot agreeable to the king. This resulted in Samson, the sub-sacristan, being elected abbot. Carlyle much admired him, and made him the hero of his "Past and Present."

¹"Henry, late bishop," was Henry Woodlock, otherwise "De Merewell," from Marwell (between Bishop's Waltham and Winchester), where he was born; and Henry de Blois' foundation there was increased by him.

²Miss Toulmin Smith's edition, Part 4, p. 23.



Up. of Winchellers Houfe, at Waltham, Hants.

THE PALACE, BISHOP'S WALTHAM, IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.
(From "Grose's Hampshire," 1784)

Henry II. also held at Waltham a Council, at which the barons granted him supplies for the third crusade. Richard I. held a Council here before his last expedition to Normandy (1194); Henry V. was much in South Hants about the time of his invasion of France, and dated a letter from Waltham on 10th August, 1415, the day before his expedition sailed for Harfluer and Agincourt; Margaret of Anjou, visited Cardinal Beaufort here; Henry VIII. here made a convention, known as the Treaty of Bishop's Waltham, with the Emperor Charles V. (1512).

The following description of the palace ruins, taken from Grose's collections,¹ is probably the best existing account of the palace.

"This house was demolished during the troubles in the reign of King Charles the First, at which time Walter Curle was Bishop of Winchester, who suffered likewise greatly in his private fortune, which was put under sequestration; and he refusing to take the covenant was not suffered to compound. In 1761 only part of the west front, consisting of the outer walls, some windows of the great hall and adjoining apartments, overgrown with ivy, and a broken tower, were standing; but shattered pieces of building and half buried fragments of cross walls, extended over a considerable space. From a careful investigation of these, a gentleman, who resides in the neighbourhood, made out a ground plan, from which, and the traditions of some ancient inhabitants, the following conjectures of its state when entire are formed. Its area was, in figure, a right angled parallelogram, the four sides nearly fronting the four cardinal points of the compass; its east and west sides measuring 300 feet, and its north and south 180 feet. It consisted of two courts, of which the outer or north court was considerably the larger. The entrance was near the northernmost end of the west side, through a gate 17 feet wide, having on the left side a porter's lodge. Adjoining to this lodge were the servants' offices, which formed the north side [built by Bishop Langton about 1500]. On the west were the kitchen, scullery, and

¹Grose's Antiquities of England, 1761, new Ed. 1797, vol. 2, p. 228.

brewhouses. The east was occupied by the barns and stables, and on the south were offices and lodging rooms, with the gate leading into the second court. In the second, or inner court, on the north side, was a grand hall lighted by five large Gothic windows; its length was 66 feet, width 27 feet, and height 25 feet [built by William of Wickham].

At the south end of this hall were niches for seats or statues. Near this spot was a double row of pilasters, now almost covered with rubbish, which seem to have supported some arches. Opposite, on the east side of the court, was a chapel of the same dimensions as the hall. The north side was probably a cloister, and over it lodging rooms, or a long gallery." [I suggest these formed a guest's house with hall, kitchens, and bedrooms, and still exist though now roofless]. "The south side was seemingly the body of the house. The rooms, it is said, were from 20 to 22 feet high. On the angles made by the concurrence of this side with those of the east and west, were two square towers, part only of one on the south-west angle is remaining. Each of its sides measures 17 feet within the walls. There is still to be seen the fire-place of the ground floor, also those of the first and second storey. The height of the rooms in this tower was about 14 feet. All the outside walls are six, and the inner walls four feet thick. Most of them have been pulled down and carried away for the sake of the materials. On the west side ran a ditch 25 feet wide, between which and the wall was a walk. About 40 feet west of the ditch is a large pond, which is said to have been formerly half a mile long and a furlong broad. To the east of the house were large gardens, walled round with brick and the remains of two lodges. Here also was a park reported to have contained 1,000 acres, now converted into a farm. It is supposed that the house was demolished by a battery planted on the east side. . . . The stews for keeping fish for the use of the house are still in being, and against a wall near the ruins, is shown an ancient pear tree, said to have been planted by William of Wykeham. It has lately (1780) been grafted, and has produced bergamot pears, mostly of two pounds weight, and some few weighing 37 ounces."

Since the palace was ruined Bishop's Waltham has led a quieter but still prosperous life. It now has a railway from Botley, and large brickworks. Its church has twice been restored. It is light, airy, and good for sound, and has a very fine Jacobean oak pulpit. The town also has two dissenting chapels, some good shops and houses, but no longer a market.

Probably the two most noted inhabitants, since the Bishop ceased to dwell in the palace, have been (1) Admiral Vernon, the hero of Porto Bello (1739), who afterwards built a house here still called Vernon Hill House, but who on entering Parliament changed his residence to Suffolk. One speech of his is still remembered, when he greatly amused the House of Commons by saying that "England is the most overtaxed and misgoverned country this side hell." (2) Sir Arthur Helps, Clerk of the Privy Council, a courtly gentleman and an accomplished writer, who from 1860 to about 1874 owned and inhabited Vernon Hill House. His principal work was "The Spanish Conquest of America," which still holds its own. He it was who brought to Bishop's Waltham the railway, the brick (formerly terra-cotta) works, the gas works, the water works, and an infirmary (now a private house). Sir Arthur entertained the great American writer, Emerson, at Vernon Hill.

The Rev. Gilbert White, best known in connection with Selborne, was from September, 1753, for eighteen months curate of Durley, and lived with the rector of Bishop's Waltham.

The combined brooks which form the river Hamble, before reaching Waltham Pond, again divide, one branch running through the pond and down the valley, while the other (known in old days as "the River of the Lord") passes to the left through the grounds both of the ruins and of an eighteenth century house called Palace House, a short distance from which it rejoins the pond stream. This "River of the Lord," I doubt not is the "praty brooke running hard by" the palace; mentioned by Leland when speaking of Bishop's Waltham.¹

¹Leland, p. 285 of Part 1 of Miss Toulmin-Smith's Ed.

(3) *Durley.*

About a mile below the pond, the present parish of Durley touches the right bank of the Hamble. Durley is an old village with pretty thirteenth century church; but most of its buildings are far away from the Hamble, and hence hardly connected with the subject of this article. The scenery is pretty. A large fruit farm of some 200 acres has recently been started near the Hamble, and two old mills are on or near it. One, the "Frog Mill," on the Curdridge side was in Queen Anne's reign called a "paper mill." The other, on the Durley side, is old, and is still used as a flour mill. On the left bank a large brook, from "the Moors" on the east of Bishop's Waltham, joins the Hamble about a mile from Waltham, and soon after the Hamble passes through part of the new parish of Curdridge.

(4) *Curdridge.*

The parish of Curdridge was carved out of Bishop's Waltham, ecclesiastically in 1838, and civilly in 1894. Its area is over 2,170 acres, and its population 627 in 1901. It is new, prosperous, increasing. Its church was built in 1887 by Mr. Jackson, R.A., and is a fine specimen of modern Gothic. On the Fairthorne estate some Roman relics have been found of late years. Fairthorne and Botley Hill are both now in Curdridge parish, and until that new parish was created were in Bishop's Waltham, but the part of Botley Hill grounds on the West side of the Hamble are in Botley parish.

(5) *Botley.*

At Botley mill the river flows under the road and becomes tidal, but continues pretty until it joins the sea. The bridge carrying the road was built about one hundred years ago, and before this the traffic had to pass the tidal water of the Hamble through a ford. Botley now has an area of about 2,000 acres, and its population was 856 in 1901. The following is an English translation of what Domesday says of Botley:—"Botelie. Ralph de Mortimer holds Botley, and Cheping held it of King Edward. It was then and is now assessed at two hides. Here are six plough lands and 8 villeins, and 4 borderers with 4 plough lands, also a church

and 4 servants and two mills worth 20s. and 12 acres of meadow. There is no wood. Its value was in the time of King Edward £10, and afterwards was, and is, 100s."

Botley is occasionally mentioned in the county and other records. It is now a picturesque residential village, with a market and a farmers' club. The harbour of Southampton includes Botley Bridge tidal water, ending at Botley Mill. In 1888, at the entrance to Curdridge creek, the remains of a Danish boat, now in Botley Market Hall, were found. Old Botley Church was closed, and a new one built in 1836, when the old stone font and a stone effigy of a knight were taken to the new church from the old one. The font is interesting, and reminds one of that in St. Martin's Church, Canterbury.

Occasional references to Botley are found in history, *e.g.*, (1) In 1279 John de Botteley was Sheriff of Hants; (2) at Ghent, 1297, October 14th, pardon was granted to William Durrant, of Bottelegh, in consideration of his services that side the seas, for the death of John his brother; (3) in 25 Henry VI. the King confirmed a grant to the Provost of St. Elizabeth's Chapel of market and fair of the manor of Botele.

Botley for a century or more has had among its residents many gallant admirals, and among other notable inhabitants have been William Cobbett, M.P., Radical writer and farmer, and Sir Henry Jenkyns, who was for many years the parliamentary draughtsman. In the grounds of Botley Hill, the residence of Lady Jenkyns, Sir Henry's widow, are some buildings which belonged to a house once occupied by Cobbett, and Fairthorne House, a fine residence (now Mr. Burrell's), is built on a farm Cobbett owned, and on which, after his return from North America, he is said to have planted many North American trees. Cobbett was a remarkable man. I have but little space to spare for him, and if any reader should wish to know more about him I recommend "Cobbett, the Contentious Man," in "Historical Characters," by Sir H. Bulwer, afterwards Lord Dalling, and Mr. Albert J. Pell's "William Cobbett," vol. 63, of the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal. The former deals with Cobbett as a man of the world, the latter as an agriculturalist. There is a

curious difference between them as to Cobbett's age. Lord Dalling states he was born 9th March, 1766. Mr. Pell admits Cobbett always believed he was born on that day, but adopts 9th March, 1762, saying "it seems certain that his birth could not have been in a later year than that given here. This would make him 73 when he died, while Lord Dalling made him 69. Cobbett was grandson of an illiterate labourer, or small holder, and son of another who had a little education. He was born near Farnham. He was entirely self-educated, but became a distinguished writer and speaker. He mostly wrote for periodicals, the best known being Cobbett's "Weekly Political Register." Among his more solid works are an excellent "English Grammar," "Rural Rides," principally in Wilts and Hants, and "A History of the Protestant Reformation." At the age of seventeen he went to London and became a clerk, but, not liking the occupation, he enlisted in the 54th Regiment (1784), and served principally in America for nearly eight years, becoming sergeant-major, and never incurring punishment or reprimand. He was discharged on his own application at Portsmouth, 19th December, 1791. He married on 3rd February, 1792, the pretty, industrious daughter of an artillery sergeant, to whom he had been engaged four years. In September he went to the United States, and at Philadelphia gave lessons in English to French emigrants, including Talleyrand, formerly Bishop of Autun, and afterwards Napoleon's Foreign Minister. Then he published a pamphlet by which he netted 1s. 7½d., and afterwards, under the name of Peter Porcupine, other pamphlets. For a time he was successful; but finally he was prosecuted for libel, and had to give security for good behaviour to the amount of 4,000 dollars. Shortly afterwards he libelled a Dr. Rush, who recovered 5,000 dollars in damages and costs. This nearly ruined Cobbett, and in June, 1800, he left for England. There he became a Tory, started the "Weekly Political Register," and got into hot water through articles against the Irish Executive. Again he became a Liberal. In 1806 he bought Fairthorne Farm of 300 acres. While there, he (with Mr. James Warner) founded the Botley and South Hants Farmers' Club, which still flourishes. In 1809 Cobbett was found guilty of a so-called libel relating to a

court-martial sentence of 500 lashes to each of five militiamen who were insubordinate at Ely. Mr. Pell says "The so-called mutiny and the causes which led to it seem to have been of a very trivial character." Cobbett was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and £1,000 fine. This nearly broke him, but during the two years, with the help of his young children, he carried on from his prison both his paper and his Botley farm, the letters and hampers from which much cheered him. When the two years were over a complimentary dinner was given to him on his release, Sir Francis Burdett being in the chair, and Cobbett returned to his Botley farm. But he was in debt to the amount of £34,000, and on 28th March, 1817, fled to the United States and took a farm in Long Island. However, in about a year, it was burnt down. This time he did not take in America, and the great war being over in England, not only were normal times returning in politics, but reform was a hope with many. So Cobbett came back to England, and to make a sensation brought with him the bones of Thomas Paine, whom at one time he had called "an infamous and atrocious miscreant." The sensation fell flat, but his Register again became a success, and he began to think of a seat in Parliament—neither a cheap nor easy object in those pre-Reform days. He tried Coventry in 1821, but was beaten. In 1826 he contested Preston, but was last on the poll. Then he became a butcher at Kensington, but had to declare himself bankrupt. In 1830 the Attorney General prosecuted Cobbett for an article in the "Register," said to excite to incendiarism and rebellion. The jury could not agree, and Cobbett left the court practically a victor. Shortly afterwards, in 1832, he was elected M.P. for Oldham, when he was, according to Lord Dalling, about 66. Lord Dalling says, "I know no other instance of a man entering the House of Commons at his age and becoming at once an effective debater in it. He soon became rather a favourite with an audience which is only unforgiving when bored." In June, 1834 he was re-elected for Oldham, but he died on 18th June, 1835, and was buried at Farnham.

Such was Cobbett's career—a wonderful one considering his humble start. He was a good husband and father, and

on the whole did useful service to the cause of liberty by his legal contests and by his writings; the latter also conveyed much general instruction to the people. But these good services were somewhat marred by jealousy, an unruly tongue and pen, and too much tenacity to change.

Sir Henry Jenkyns was quite a different man. His father and uncle were both highly educated. Sir Henry had the advantages of a training at Oxford and preparation for the Bar, and he made full use of them. He had for some years held with credit the important position of parliamentary draughtsman, and in his leisure time saw an edition of State Trials through the Press. Botley has in many ways benefitted by his munificence.

(5) *Bursledon.*

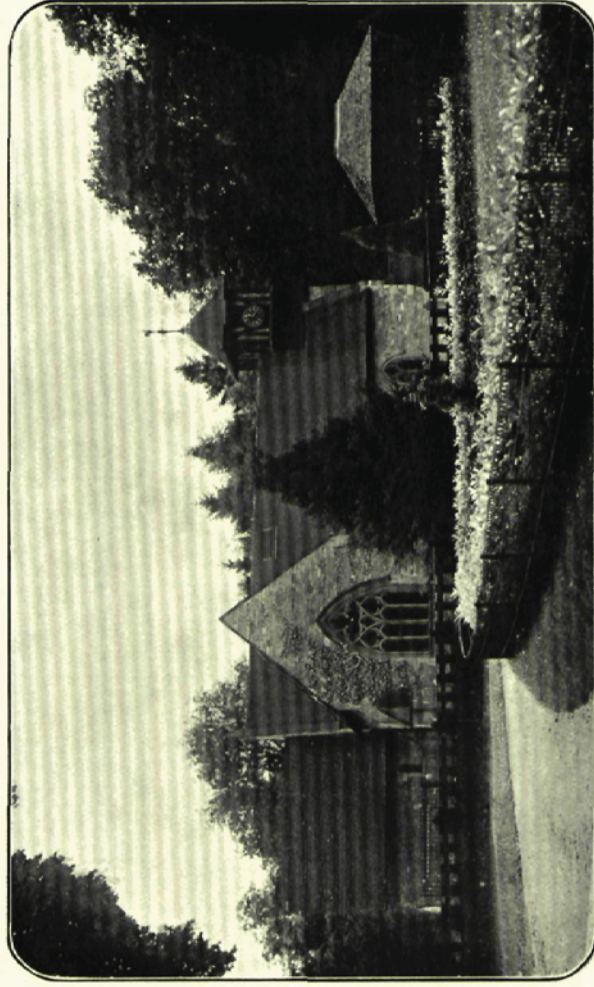
Below Botley, on the right bank of the Hamble, is the pretty village of Bursledon. The parish comprises about 1,100 acres with 815 inhabitants according to the census of 1901. It is not mentioned in the Domesday Book though the church is old, and though it and Hamble were known both before and after the Conquest as ports and places where ships were built, and laid up. The river estuary widens out here, and gives access to Southampton Water and the sea.

The church was restored and enlarged in 1888, but the chancel arch and walls and part of the nave are old, dating according to the Victorian history from about 1230. There is an interesting twelfth century font. The whole church is now an attractive one, though the transepts and other work are new.

(6) *Salisbury and Swanwick.*

Below Botley, between it and Hook-cum-Warsash and on the left side of the Hamble, is a new parish of considerable area, taken from the old parish of Titchfield. In 1837 the new ecclesiastical parish was formed, and in 1894 it was also made a civil parish. The church was built in 1836 and enlarged in 1888. The area of this parish is 2,441 acres, and the population 5,832 (1901). The inhabitants of this parish, and also many in Botley, cultivate strawberries and other garden produce largely, and do well by it; the strawberries of

HANTS FIELD CLUB AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD, BURLESDON.

this district being the earliest in the London market, except those from Brest and the Scilly Islands.

There are several good residences in the parish, in particular Sarisbury Court, the beautiful grounds of which run down to the Hamble.

(7) *Hound with Netley.*

This parish has a small river frontage on the right bank of the Hamble, between those of Bursledon and Hamble. It now has an acreage of 4,271 acres, and a population of 4,548. In old days it had a large area, but probably mostly of heath land. This area has been reduced of late years by the creation of new parishes. In Domesday only a small portion of cultivated land at Hound, which belonged to the Meon Valley town or village of Warnford, is mentioned, possibly because the rest of the parish was heath and woods. The following is a translation of this portion of Domesday, under the heading "In Manestock Hundreds":—"In Hune (Hound) are 3 hides and 4 acres of land which pertain to Warnford, and are paid for in Manebridge Hundred. Seven hides are within the whole. The land is 9 ploughlands. In demesne are 3 ploughlands, 31 villeins, and 9 borderers, with 6 ploughlands. There is a church and 6 slaves, and two mills worth 20s., and 20 acres of meadow. In the time of King Edward, and by custom, it was worth 14 pounds. When it fell in hand, 8 pounds."

There is also in Domesday the following about Natalie (Netley) in Manebridge Hundred:—"Richard Pungiant holds Netley, and Alward held it of King Edward, and was permitted to remove. It was then assessed at 3 hides but now at 1 hide. Here are 5 ploughlands, 1 in demesne, and 4 villeins, and 7 borderers with 3 ploughlands, also a chapel, 2 servants, 4 acres of meadow, and wood for 40 hogs. Its value in the time of King Edward 60s., afterwards 40s., and now 100s."

Netley was then a fishing village. The great Abbey was not built then, and the chapel was probably at Bursledon. The church belonging to the Warnford holding; may have been part of that now at Hamble, or a predecessor of the

present old Hound Church of St. Mary, which is said to have been built about 1230. There is now a modern church near the ruins of Netley Abbey dedicated to St. Edward the Confessor.

Netley Abbey was founded by the Cistercian Order in 1239, and adopted by Henry III. It was in the early English style, and even in ruin is very beautiful. It was suppressed in Henry VIII's time, and shared the then usual fate of such endowments. Not far from its ruins on Southampton Water, a fort was built in Henry VIII's time, and, with additions, now forms the beautiful residence of Colonel the Honble. H. G. L. Crichton. Nearly a mile nearer Southampton is Netley Hospital, a handsome pile erected after the Crimean War for army and navy patients. It was full to overflowing during the Boer war.

(8) *Hamble.*

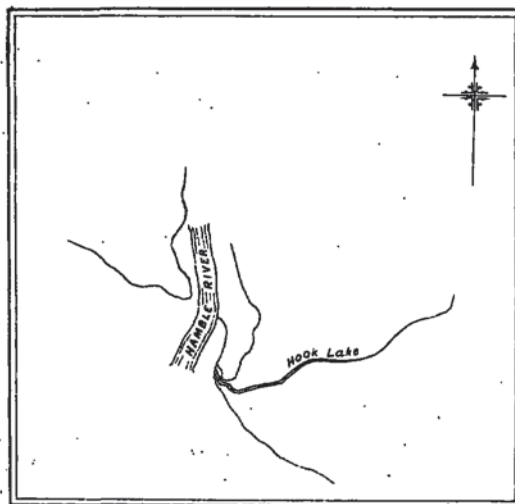
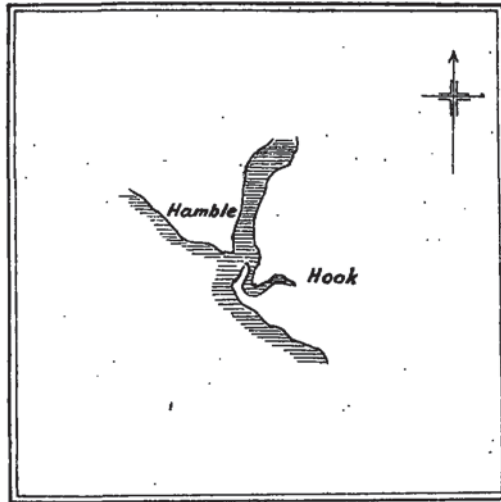
This village is not mentioned in Domesday. It is on the north side of the river, and contains 404 acres of cultivated ground, and about 950 with tidal water and foreshore, and 395 inhabitants (1901). There formerly was a St. Andrew's fort at the north side of the entrance of the Hamble. Lobsters and crabs are now brought to the river estuary from Ireland and abroad, and are fed up for market.

At Hamble in the twelfth century the French abbey of Tiron established a cell or branch which lasted more than 200 years; but in Edward I's time it appears to have suffered from French attacks, and about 1391 William of Wykeham bought up Hamble le Rice, with its church, cell and tithes, making them over to Winchester College as part of its endowment.

The church is old. The chancel was the church of the priory, and the nave that of Hamble parish. The church has a tower, and is of considerable interest.

(9) *Hook with Warsash.*

This forms a new parish on the left bank and at the mouth of the Hamble. It was carved out of Titchfield parish, and includes the old site of Hamble le Hoke (or Hook). This new



TWO PLANS OF THE MOUTH OF THE HAMBLE.

ecclesiastical parish was created in 1872, and constituted a civil parish in 1894. The church was built in 1871 at the expense of Mr. Arthur Hornby, who also provided an endowment.

The parish comprises 2,619 acres, and a population of 989 (1901). Hook House and estate belong to the family of the Hon. A. Hood, who married Miss Hornby, the heiress of the Hornby family, which has owned the estate for over 100 years. Near the mouth of the Hamble was formerly a small harbour, which from its shape was known as Hamble le Hoke. This is now known as Hook lake, and it has been to a great extent cut off from the tidal water, so as to enable a considerable extent of grass land to be reclaimed. Within the embankment which still to a great extent retains the Hook shape, there is water, I believe fresh, while the old channel up to the embankment still exists, but is no longer a harbour. Further south there was, I gather, another small harbour, which with the shipping has disappeared. The Hook estate, with church and village still exist, and some strawberries are grown there.

Hook was probably the only small harbour at Hamble mouth at the time of the Conquest, and it seems likely that Hamble was created by the foreign priory. The map of Hampshire in Camden, in the edition of 1806, shows the creek or harbour of Hook on the south side of Hamble mouth, and the inset opposite is a copy of it, and a copy of "Hook Lake" as it appears on the Ordnance map.

The following translation from Domesday appears to relate to this Hook:—

Houch (Hook). "Adam de Port holds Hook, and Germanus holds it under him, and Norman held it of King Edward. It was then, as now, assessed at 1 hide. Here are $1\frac{1}{2}$ ploughlands, 1 in demesne and 2 villeins, and three borderers with 1 ploughland, and 1 acre of meadow; also woods which furnish 1 hog. It is worth 25s." 28 Edward III., Roger, Earl of March, bought the right to wild beasts and other liberties of Hamelhoke.

(10) *Hamble Shipping and Shipbuilding.*

I now deal with the shipping and shipbuilding in the whole of the Hamble river. In 720-21, before the Danish wars had injured Saxon civilisation in England, the Hamble was a place of departure for ships, and a high-born Englishman, Willibald, son of one Richard who bore the title of king, and nephew of St. Boniface (Winfrith)—who three years before had left England to evangelise the Germans of both banks of the Rhine—decided to visit Rome with his father, Richard, and his brother Wunebald. They started by ship in the summer from "the appointed place known by the name of Hamblemouth;" disembarked at Rouen, and "going on thence from place to place," passed through the dangerous and brigand-infected passes of the Alps, and reached Lucca where Willibald's father died. His two sons reached Rome about Martinmas, where they remained until after Easter. In the spring of 722 the two brothers proceeded to Terracina, Gaieta, and Naples, and took ship to and spent years in Asia Minor and the East. After St. Boniface's martyrdom in 754 Willibald took his place as leader of the German mission.¹

In the water at Bursledon are still to be seen the remains of a Danish ship, which some suppose to be one of three which were destroyed there in 877. Probably these were lame ducks which put into the Hamble river after the storm thus mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle:—"A.D. 877. This year the Danish army came to Exeter from Wareham, and the fleet sailed round westwards; and then a great storm overtook them at sea, and there 120 ships were wrecked at Swanwick (Swanage)."

In Edward I.'s time ships from Hamle (Hamble) are mentioned in an account of the passage of the ships of various ports from Plymouth to Gascony.² In 30 Edward I. (1302) a lease of the Customs of Southampton was granted at the "farm" of £200. The members or smaller ports belonging to Southampton were "Portemue, Hamle, Linnentone, Scharprixe, Kyhaven, and Rumbridge."³ In

¹R. Beazley's "Dawn of Modern Geography." Vol. 1, p. 140, *et seq.*

²Lindsay's "History of Merchant Shipping." Vol 1, p. 633.

³"Davies's Southampton," page 33.

1345 Hamble sent seven ships and 117 mariners, and Hook 11 ships and 208 men out of 493 ships and 9,030 men which formed the English fleet in the then French war."¹ 24th September, 1508 (23 Henry VII.), an Admiralty Court was held at Hamul-on-the-Rice (Hamble), on September 24th, in the accustomed place on the seashore, the jury representing Itchen, Netley, Hamullryse, Botley, Warsash, Shotshame (Satchelee), and Brisselden (Bursledon).²

The "Navy Records" say³:—"The Solent has always been a favourite situation for the navy in peace, and Portsmouth itself is spoken of in connection with the Royal vessels as early as the reign of John. But during the 15th century the River Hamble and Southampton Water were more frequently used than any other place. During the reign of Henry V. Southampton was then the only town where the Crown possessed storehouses and appliances. While Henry lived, and until the navy ceased to exist in his son's reign, the ships were kept in Southampton Water or opposite Bursledon on the River Hamble. There are traces in the earlier years of these accounts (p. 23, 4, 7, and 30) that the tradition which enjoined the use of the River Hamble for men-of-war lying up had not died out," and p. 36 says, "Receyved [probably to lay up during winter] the king's ship cald the Grace Dieu the Xth day of October the first year (1485) of the most noble reigne of the said souveraine lord the Kyng in a dokke at Hamill on the Hoke in the countie of Southampton with the staffe takle and aparill hereafter ensuyng." [Here follows a long list of sails, cordage, armour, arms, and stores]. The royal ship Marie of the Touré (Tower) and her sails, arms, &c., were also received at Hamill on the Hoke, on the 11th October, 1485, and the king's ship, the Governor, with its sails, cannon, arms, and stores, were on the 10th October, 1485, also received at Hamill. The Southampton book of oaths now in use, but commenced in 1648-53 by the Town Clerk, R. Stanley, shows that the costs of Admiralty Courts at Hamble were limited to 40 shillings.

¹"Davies's Southampton," p. 253.

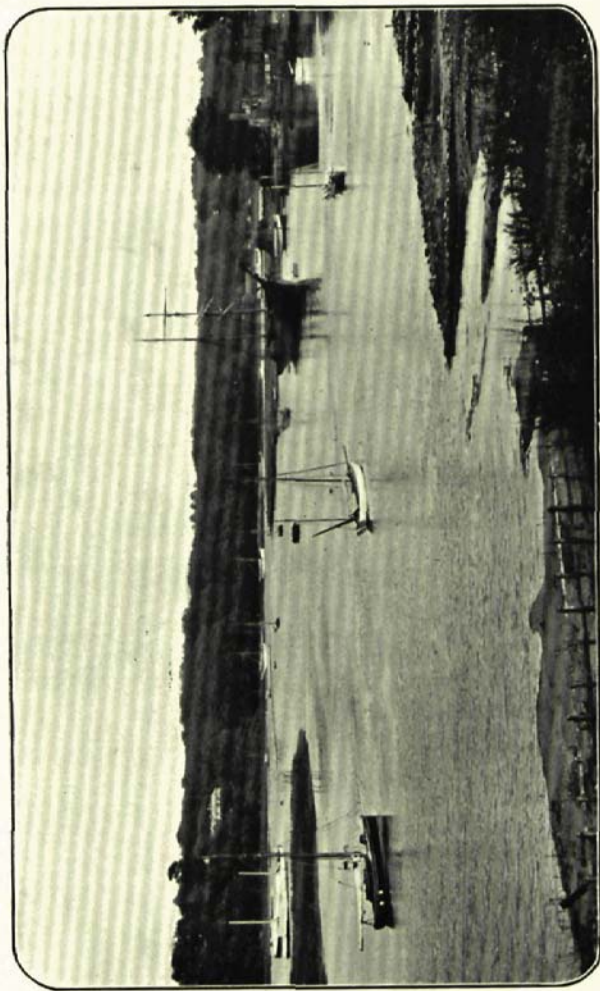
²"Davies's Southampton," p. 241.

³"Accounts and Inventories of Henry VII.," p. 34-5.

The Admiralty Records show that "At Hamul on the Rice (Hamble), on September 24th, in the accustomed place on the sea shore, the jury representing Hamulryse, Shotsdale, Busseldon, and Netley dealt with certain matters. The two last statements I take from "Davies's Southampton."

"Leland's Itinerary of England," parts I. to III., written between 1535 and 1543, but never finished,¹ says, "3 miles from Hamelhooke that lyeth as at the est point of the Haven [of Southampton] goith a creke by north-east up yn yrto the lande, caullid commonly Hamel le creeke and of sum Hamel haven, wheryn is a very fair rode for greate shippes. It takith name of a good fiscar toun caullid Hamelrise that lyith about a mile ynward from the creke mouth on the lift hand by weste. This toun now longeth to the new Colledge in Winchester. It longgid afore to a pricrie of religieuse men in the same toun. A three miles above Hemelrise at the very hedde of the creeke is a good village caullid Budley or Botley. And to this creeke by my estimation resortithe the water cummyng from Bisshops Waltham a praty tounlet a 3 miles of. Scant a mile from the mouth of Hamelrise Creeke lyithe Letelege [Netley] on the shore upward in the mayne haven. Here a late was a great abbey in building of white monks. About a two miles upward brekith in a great creeke and goith into the land by northe. On the lift hand [of the Itchen] out of the mayne haven of this creeke by west a little from the shore stondith a chapelle of our Lady of Grace some time hauntid with Pilgrimmes. [This is what St. Mary's Church was then reduced to. It was re-built in Queen Victoria's time.] Right agayn it is Hichyn a smaulle village on the est side and hereof the trajectus is caulled Hitchin-Fery. A two miles upper in the creek lyith S Dionise on the left hand and west ripe, where of late was a priorie of chañons ord. St. August. And on the right hand on the est ripe lyith almost again it Bythern sentyme a castelle longging to the Bishop of Winchester. . . . Wood Mille lyith scant a mile upward, as at the head of the creeke, and hither resorttith Alresford river [the Itchen] augmented by dyverse brokes. At Wood Mylle is

¹Miss Toulmin Smith's edition, Part 3, p. 279.



THE HAMBLE RIVER.

good taking of salmons. The town of Hampton is not half a mile above the mouth of this creke."

1577. A presentment was made at Southampton Court Leet of "the excessive carriage away of [wood] by shippes and barcks out of the west cuntry and other places which continuellie do lade and carie away the sich provission of woode from the Haven of Hamble and biesseldon¹." In 1579 it was presented "that Owen Symons is a usual conveyor of wood beyond the seas, and that at Hamble divers barcks is laden with wood to be transported."

In the days when ships were small, harbours also small were suited to them, and Hamble and Titchfield Haven were important. As ships increased in size they gradually left those harbours for large ones such as Southampton.

Mr. Davies in his "History of Southampton," says, "Southampton is now the head port for Christchurch, Lymington, Keyhaven, Beaulieu, Hamble, and Redbridge. The Harbour of Southampton commences at Hill Head" (p. 224). This just included Titchfield Haven, where I have an idea that in the Roman times the Cornish men may have brought their tin by sea and sold it to Phœnicians and other customers; for I have no belief that a place so inconvenient to reach as the Isle of Wight then was, can ever have been a tin mart. "The boundary between the port of Southampton and Portsmouth," Mr. Davies continues, "stretches across a right line to a point just below Calshot Castle."

It remains for me to say something of shipbuilding in the Hamble. There must have been ships built at Bursledon and Hamble river at an early date, probably commencing with coracles, and, doubtless, including most of the Hamble and Hook ships used for war in the days of the Edwards. But the first express mention I have come across is in "A Topographical Ecclesiastical and Natural History," by the Rev. Thomas Cox, published in 1700, which says:—

"At Bustleton, a little village, is a noted yard for building of ships, where several men-of-war have been built in the

¹Southampton Court Leet Records, p. 145-6.

²Southampton Court Leet Records, p. 167.

late wars with France in the reign of William III." Two are said to have been 80 gun ships¹. It is also stated 'Mr. Philemon Ewer, who died 1750, aged 49, and is buried in Bursledon Church, had a large shipbuilding yard at Bursledon, where the Anson, 60 guns was built, and his mural tablet states he built seven large ships of war for His Majesty's service during the late war with France and Spain. Mr. Ewer's monument has an unrigged battleship carved in relief on it. At the end of the eighteenth century Mr. Henry Parsons built ships at Bursledon, including the Elephant—a 74—in which Nelson sailed to Copenhagen.' A Mr. George Parsons and Mr. John Parsons are buried at Bursledon; George, in January, 1798, 'near 36,' and John, in March, 1801, aged 38. The industry has long since died out, but yachts are still built, and many laid up in the Hamble.

The following, from the "Short Account of the Church of St. Leonard, Bursledon," by the late Vicar, the Rev. C. E. Matthews, is interesting:—"Bursledon was formerly celebrated for its shipbuilding. An extract from 'A tour through the whole Island of Great Britain,' originally begun by Daniel Defoe, and completed by a Mr. Richardson, 1769, contains the following passage in the 'Journey from Portsmouth to Southampton':—"From thence we ride to Titchfield, where we pass the river Aire. Thence at about four miles we pass another river at Busselton, narrow in breadth, but exceeding deep, and eminent for its being able to carry the largest ships. Here is a building yard for ships of war. In King William's time two eighty gun ships were launched here. It seems the safety of the creek, and the plenty of timber in the country behind it, are reasons for building so much in this place."

According to Charnock (wrote the editor of the *Field*, in 1902) the following ships were built by Philemon Ewer at Bursledon:—Anson, 60 guns, built 1747; Falkland, 50 guns, built 1744; Rubie, 48 guns and 987 tons, and Rainbow, 44 guns, both in 1748; Triton, 501 tons and 24 guns, 1745; Humber, 44 guns and 829 tons, in 1748; while his son R.

¹Vict. Hist. Hants, v. 3, p. 283.

Ewer seems to have built the Griffin, 28 guns and 598 tons, in 1758.

"Another celebrated shipbuilder was H. Parsons, who launched the Fox, 32 guns, in 1780, at Bursledon, and the Quebec, 32 guns, in the following year; while in 1782 he completed the Thalía, 36 guns, and the Ardent, 74 guns, came up the river to have her 1,387 tons burden rebuilt. Mr. Thomas Cockham is reputed to have built the Crescent, 36 guns, at Bursledon, in 1784. Two years later Henry Parsons launched the Elephant, 74 guns, which carried Nelson, his telescope, and his blind eye to Copenhagen in 1801. The Blonde, a smart frigate of 32 guns, left the stocks at Bursledon in 1787. A large number of smaller vessels were also built here. Shipbuilding, however, must have been carried on for many years previously, for 'on St. George's Day, A.D. 1338,' or more than five and a half centuries ago, we have it on record 'that the most famous of our Royal Plantagenets, Edward III., gave our first man-of-war the name of S. George. She was launched in the presence of the king, and dedicated with all the formality of the Church by the Bishop of Winchester and the Abbot of Netley, at Bursledon, on the Hamble river.'"

Several friends have kindly assisted me in obtaining information for this article, and in particular Colonel Hawley, Dr. Andrews, the Rev. C. E. Matthews, and the Editor of the H.F.C. Proceedings.